

While the Company was quartered here for training, thirty-five men were transferred to the Replacement Depot, hence to the Rainbow Division (42nd) and about the same number from each Company in the Division.

It was during the first days of September that many anxious hearts were cheered and gladdened upon the arrival of the first mail from homefolk in U. S. A., and from this time on mail was often received.

### TO THE FRONT

The preparatory training for the Great War ended when it was interrupted by orders to take part in the Great Offensive. So on September 17, 1918, at 7 a. m., the men were in line with all the goods that Uncle Sam had ever issued them, and then some, bearing down with the pressure of apparently a hundred pounds or more. Then with squads left began the hardest hike of the Company in France. Up hill and over dale found the Company with the rest of the Battalion at noon eating by the side of the Canal de Bourgoyne with bare feet dangling therein. The rest of the twenty-nine kilometre hike beneath a scorching sun brought the Company, with the exception of a few who had fallen out, to a little town, Chessy, at 7:30 p. m., where shelter tents were pitched across two plowed ridges, one for foot rest and another for a pillow. After a night's constant rain, early morn found the Company on another five-kilometre hike to the entraining station at Ervy, reaching here at 9 a. m. Each man prepared his breakfast on the installment plan, for the Company was on a loading detail. The Battalion entrained at 2:30 in the afternoon in "Hommes 40 Chevaux 8," side-door pullman, and left at 4 p. m. Along this route the day